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RUEHBKJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 7291  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 7364  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHMFSS/COMUSKOREA J5 SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHMFSS/COMUSFK SEOUL KOR PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 000248

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 02/18/2035  
TAGS PREL, PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, KN, KS, CH  
SUBJECT: A/S CAMPBELL DISCUSSES DPRK FUTURE WITH EXPERTS

Classified By: AMB D. Kathleen Stephens. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

SUMMARY

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¶1. (C) A group of five ROK opinion leaders and experts on North Korea issues told A/S Kurt Campbell on February 3 it was difficult to predict

¶2. (C) Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell met on February 3 with Korean opinion leaders with a keen interest in DPRK issues to hear their views  
Doubts About Younger Kim's Experience

¶4. (C) There were many reasons to doubt that Kim Jong-un would be able to successfully fend off challenges to his control after his father died  
Tight Control and Aid Kept Regime Afloat

¶5. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX opined that brutal repression and international aid had been the secrets of Kim Jong-il's ability to fend off challenges. A  
Complicates the Endgame

¶6. (C) The experts agreed that China's obsession with DPRK stability at all costs, was clearly and fundamentally at odds with U.S. and ROK int

¶7. (C)XXXXXXXXXXXX noted that although Washington had a keen interest in both denuclearization and human rights, the U.S. stake in North Korea &  
Cooperation are Key

¶8. (C) Negating Chinese influence over the long term, [Name removed] observed, would involve close U.S.-ROK cooperation in winning the hearts